

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method for entering text using a keypad comprising a number of keys fewer than the number of items in the text to be entered, comprising:
 - (a) detecting the actuation of the keys of the keypad;
 - (b) determining if the detected actuation was created by the actuation of one key or the substantially simultaneous actuation of multiple keys;
 - (c) if the detected key actuation was created by the actuation of one key, entering the item associated with the one key; and
 - (d) if the detected key actuation was created by the substantially simultaneous actuation of multiple keys, entering the item associated with the multiple keys.
2. The method claimed in Claim 1 wherein the items of text are letters.
3. The method claimed in Claim 2 wherein the letters are English language letters.
4. The method claimed in Claim 1 wherein the keypad comprises a row/column matrix of keys.
5. The method claimed in Claim 4 wherein the items of text are letters.
6. The method claimed in Claim 5 wherein the letters are English language letters.
7. The method claimed in Claim 4 wherein said keypad is a 12-key keypad.
8. A method for entering text as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the keypad is a three-row by four-column 12-key keypad.
9. The method claimed in Claim 8 wherein the items of text are letters.

10. The method claimed in Claim 9 wherein the letters are English language letters.

11. The method claimed in Claim 1 wherein the multiple keys are located side by side.

12. The method claimed in Claim 11 wherein the multiple keys are two keys.

13. Computer-readable media containing computer-executable instructions that, when executed, carry out the method of any one of Claims 1-12.

14. In a device containing a keypad formed of a plurality of keys oriented in a row/column matrix, the improvement comprising computer-executable code for:

- (a) detecting the actuation of the keys of the keypad;
- (b) determining if the detected key actuation was created by the actuation of one key or the substantially simultaneous actuation of two keys;
- (c) if the detected key actuation is created by the actuation of one key, entering a test item associated with the one key; and
- (d) if the detected key actuation is created by the substantially simultaneous actuation of two keys, entering a text item associated with the two keys.

15. The improvement claimed in Claim 14 wherein the text items are letters.

16. The improvement claimed in Claim 15 wherein the letters are English language letters.

17. The improvement claimed in Claim 14 wherein the keypad comprises a row/column matrix of keys.

18. The improvement claimed in Claim 17 wherein the text items are letters.

19. The improvement claimed in Claim 18 wherein the letters are English language letters.

20. The improvement claimed in Claim 17 wherein the keypad is a 12-key keypad.

21. An improvement for entering text as claimed in Claim 20 wherein the keypad is a three-row by four-column 12-key keypad.

22. The improvement claimed in Claim 21 wherein the text items are letters.

23. The improvement claimed in Claim 22 wherein the letters are English language letters.

24. The improvement claimed in Claim 14 wherein the multiple keys are located side by side.

25. The improvement claimed in Claim 24 wherein the multiple keys are two keys.